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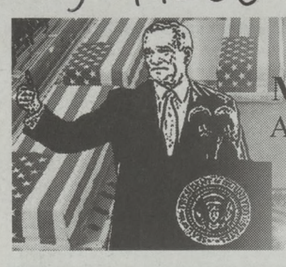

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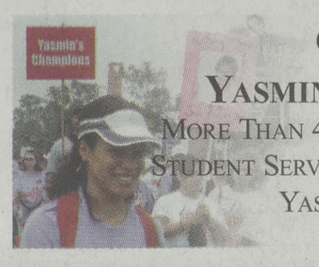

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WWW.LAVC.EDU

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 9 | MAY 17, 2006 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

GPA Pivotal in Transfering to 4-Year

BY SEDA TERZYAN
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again, students are keeping a nervous eye on the mailbox, waiting expectantly to be greeted by large envelopes of acceptance or crushed by small envelopes of rejection.

During the 2004-2005 school year, 294 Valley students applied to UCLA and about 150 were accepted, while 108 actually transferred. That is about 50 percent of students who applied, which follows with the school brochures of guaranteed entrance to up to 55 percent of applicants. All of these students were IGETC Certified, meaning they had completed the general classes needed to transfer to a UC, and had well over a 3.0 GPA.

Although the minimum GPA for a UC school is a 2.4, Career/Transfer Center Director Synthia Saltoun said "In reality, for universities like UCLA and Berkeley, they will not accept unless you have a 3.0."

"Counselors are very helpful with the transfer process and recommendations, although a lot of their information is outdated and ambiguous," said Tatevik Vardanyan, a psychology major and Transfer Alliance Program student who was recently admitted to UCLA. "The transfer workshops and fieldtrips are helpful and informative, but bottom-line, it's all about GPA."

Saltoun suggests to start thinking about transferring early on: Decide on a major as soon as possible and on a university to transfer to, meet with a counselor regularly to make updated student education plans and, she emphasizes, make www.assist.org your best friend if planning on a UC or Cal State; www.AICCUmentor.org if planning on a private institution.

These Web sites provide up to date information of how course credits earned at a California college can be applied when transferring. Assist.org is the official repository of articulation for California's colleges and universities and AICCUmentor is the same for private institutions.

This advice is idealistic considering the fact that more than 50 percent of Valley students have undecided about their goals and majors.

"Find your passion about what you want to study, rather than focusing on a career goal far in the future," said Richard Brossman, assistant professor of counseling. He also suggests students choose universities best suited for their goals and majors. The rumor that your education will not be as good if you attend a Cal State is just a myth, according to Brossman. The differences between the two are that the UCs are research-based and Cal States are behavioral.

"Utilize all the resources on campus, get involved, develop leadership experience, club based on majors and community service," said Brossman.

There are programs like TAP

see '*Transfer*' page 2

MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

SUPPORTING YASMIN - Forty-seven people participated in the Revlon Run/Walk for Women this past Saturday as part of Yasmin's Champions, the team of friends, family members and Valley College students and faculty supporting Valley's Student Services Vice President Yasmin Delahoussaye. See *Gallery*, page 6

FIRST PERSON

Yasmin's Champions: Walking for a Cure

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
OPINION EDITOR

Walking as members of Yasmin's Champions on Saturday, May 13 we took the fight against women's cancers to the streets of Los Angeles in the 13th annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women.

Joining more than 50,000 men, women and kids, we started out from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for a 5K walk to raise funds and awareness for women's cancers and as a show of support for Valley College Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye.

"I'm just so overwhelmed by the support," said Delahoussaye, who is a one-year cancer survivor. "It means a lot to all women."

Revlon Run/Walk for Women has grown to become one of the nation's largest 5K fundraising events. To date, the Run/Walks in Los Angeles and New York have raised nearly $37 million for cancer research, counseling and outreach programs.

Team captain Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of Student Services, was one of five Valley students and faculty members who formed Yasmin's Champions in 2005 and walked to support Delahoussaye during her illness. With Delahoussaye now in remission, Rodriguez was happy to be able to walk side-by-side with her mentor. "This year we walked with Yasmin – we came full-circle."

This year our team of family, friends, faculty and students grew in numbers to 47 supporters, including Kay Divine from Valley's compliance office and four Valley Star editors.

"We have to be champions for Yasmin," said Tony Wideman, of his daughters' godmother as he walked carrying the team sign proudly above a sea of pink ribbons, balloons, photos and banners. "She's a champion for everybody."

Members of Yasmin's Champions has raised more than $6.487 so far, and donations may still be made until June 16.

"This is a very energizing event, I'm amazed and inspired by the women and men who are walking in memory [of someone] and in support of survivors," said long-time friend of Delahoussaye's Olivia Valentine, who is a nine-year cancer survivor. "I don't know anyone who hasn't been touched by it in one way or another."

I also found an overwhelming sense of hope and support that replaced fear, sadness and anger; if even for one morning or for one person who could come to understand that they are not alone in this fight.

We are Yasmin's Champions and we walked for all the women who are now in the middle of the fight of their life, the women who have come through to the other side to win the battle and in memory of the ones we love who lost their lives to these cancers.

A friend told me, when she sent in her donation, "When my daughter is grown we can tell her about how we 'used' to have to raise money to cure this thing that doesn't exist anymore."

The Revlon Run/Walk For Women was created in 1993 through the combined efforts of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, Lilly Tartikoff, co-founder of the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program, Ronald O. Perelman, Chairman of Revlon, Inc., and The Davis Group.

For more information on the walk visit www.revlonrunwalk.com.

Prop A/AA Funds Streched Thin

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS AND TAMMY FUNICELLO
EDITORS

The $2.2 billion awarded to the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District for renovation projects, through Propositions A and AA, aren't reaching the lengths the district had hoped for.

Valley College was allotted $285 million, but with the inflation of materials and labor, many Valley projects are being shrunk, delayed or cut all together.

"Construction costs are going up and everything we wanted to build went up in price two to three times since we made the plans," said Lawrence Nakamura, microbiology professor and member of the Master Plan Committee. "We have to ask, 'What can we still build?' What can we still afford?'"

With the new $46-million Allied Health and Science Building being trimmed from its original 105,000 square feet to its current 97,000 square-foot size, the building lost all of its lecture rooms and will now have only labs.

"You can't teach in some labs, they're not designed for it," said Nakamura. "It's tough, but we have to accept these things if we want a new lab."

While stretching funds from Proposition A (passed in 2001) and Proposition AA (2003) to accomplished renovation goals, the district is planning to propose Proposition AAA, an initiative for the Spring 2007 ballot that would ask voters to grant the district more money for its projects, but Don Gauthier, environ-

see '*Propositions*' page 2

Documentary Filmmaker Tackles Social Issues

BY SEDA TERZYAN
STAFF WRITER

"Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price," "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" and "Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election," were some of the documentary clips that flooded the screen at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center while Robert Greenwald spoke as the final guest in the Provocative Speakers Series.

When Greenwald stepped to the lecturn to begin his speech this past Wednesday night, his first words accurately captured the reactions of the 200 audience members after the short, yet overwhelming visual presentation.

The impressive two-minute excerpt of Robert Greenwald's Brave New Films series was overwhelming with the amount of information it presented, ranging from individual to political reactions to his small-scale documentaries.

"I get tired of looking at all these films," said Greenwald, director, producer and documentary maker of more than 50 films. "I don't know who had the insanity to make them all."

Greenwald's first feature documentary was "Unprecedented: 2000 Presidential Election" (2002), which tracked the way the George W. Bush campaign team managed to win the US Election in 2000.

"It was the first injection of heroin into my arm," said Greenwald.

"Unprecedented" was a huge success; it was screened and sold thousands of DVDs, far exceeding Greenwald's hopes of selling 10 or 20. It was also accepted into more than 12 film festivals, including the AFI Film Festival. Greenwald's films have garnered 25 Emmy nominations, two golden globe nominations and the 2002 Producer of the Year Award from the American Film Institute.

"I fell in love, content aside, just on a creative level, fell in love with the process of doing a documentary," said Greenwald.

Even though all of Greenwald's films in the past have dealt with social issues, such as alcoholism in "Shattered Spirits," human rights abuse in "Forgotten Prisoners" and discrimination with "Man on Fire," his focus strictly became providing a social and political service to the world after two major turning points in his life.

The first event was the death of Greenwald's father in 1999, who had inscribed him with an appreciation for social justice his whole life.

"That's what I wanted to carry on, that's how I wanted to honor his spirit," said Greenwald. He decided that he wanted to do more than he was doing for society. "You get up in the day and don't just focus on your own narrow self interests."

While Greenwald was looking around for opportunities to contribute, the 9/11 terrorist attacks happened and changed the face of our entire nation. Greenwald said that after the initial horror and disbelief, he became shocked at what America became, the freedoms it so easily surrendered and how it reacted.

"Grief turned to rage, seemingly over night," said Greenwald. "I felt like there were only three of us in the world who were opposed to this way of responding to pain; by lashing out and beating the hell out of somebody."

Greenwald's documentaries are meant to provide people with

see '*Greenwald*' page 2

BIRD IS THE WORD

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

A BIRD'S LIFE - Actor and author Lionel Douglass, who played Big Bird for four years, visited Valley along with several other businesses during a media day for the San Fernando Valley Regional Black Chamber of Commerce.

Bungalows Bulldozed to Make Way for Science Building

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Construction continues at Valley College as more than 14 asbestos-filled bungalows are being demolished to make room for the new $46-million Allied Health and Science building.

The building will be made up of two three story wings connected by a trellis system and will have 131 new rooms, tutorial labs and faculty offices, according to Robert Dieken, the URS project manager for the LAVC Bond Program. Carlotta Tronto, Valley's vice president of academic affairs, said there will also be state-of-the-art laboratories and an outdoor teaching garden. Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Nursing and 11 other courses will be located in the new building.

"This is an exciting project," said Tronto. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the students, faculty and staff."

Bungalows 53 through 69 have been demolished and the old Sheriff's station and plant facilities buildings were removed to create space for the construcion of the second new Valley building within 30 years.

The construction site, located just east of the Business/ Journalism building on Valley's south side, was once the location of the bungalows, Sheriff's building, Plant Facilities and more.

The construction is part of a project called ReVitalizing Valley, which is scheduled to build a total of four new buildings on campus through money from Propositions A and AA by 2010. The newly opened Sheriff's Station and Maintenance and Operations building was the first one completed as part the project.

Construction began in April and is scheduled to go on until Spring 2008, with the digging of the foundation for the new science building set to start during the summer session.

"I am confident that the project will be completed on time as things are currently going very well at this time," Dieken said. "The students and faculty of Valley College will have a signature building which they all can be proud of for many years to come."

The remaining bungalows adjacent to the construction site, which were originally going to stay in use, will now be closed during the summer session and re-open in time for the fall semester.

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

DECONSTRUCTING VALLEY - A construction worker sprays water to keep dust and asbestos from floating into the air as Valley College's bungalows, erected in 1949, are torn down.

Classes held in those bungalows will be temporarily relocated to other campus areas to prevent classroom disturbances from the noise. The Business/ Journalism building will have its windows boarded up during the summer session to stop as much noise as possible from affecting classrooms, but Tronto said that the noise is an inevitable reality of moving forward with the project.

Bungalows 47 through 54 are not part of the project and will be refurbished and remain at Valley until 2011, after which they will be torn down to make room for a parking lot. Tom Lopez, the plant facilities director, was able to salvage six air conditioners from the destroyed bungalows and said he is now hoping to add two per room to three of the five existing bungalows without air conditioning.

"Our electricians are checking into if we have enough power for them," Lopez said. "If all things match up we could probably put air conditioning in three bungalows before the summer session."

CAMPUS EYE

Wednesday, May 17
Writing Center Workshop
MLA II
In-Text Citations
Humanities, room 100
1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17
Student Services Committee Meeting
President's Conference Room
Administration Building
1:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17
Technology Committee Meeting
PMRC
2 p.m.

Thursday, May 18
Academic Senate Meeting
Faculty Lounge
1 p.m.

Friday, May 19
Diversity Committee Meeting
Campus Center, room 104
1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23 & Wednesday, May 24
One-Stop Registration Days
Campus Center, first floor
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
RSVP necessary:
www.lavc.edu

Wednesday, May 24
Science Speaker Series
Sponsored by PESSA and the biology department
Mainstage Theater
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 25
2006 Ice Cream Social & Recognition Ceremony
Featuring the *Above & Beyond Awards* for faculty and staff and *Retiree Presentations*
Cafeteria Conference Room
Faculty and Staff only
1:30 to 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 25
Master Planning Committee Meeting
Regarding campus construction and renovations
President's Conference Room
3 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Monarch Summer Camp
Open Registration for Counselors and Junior Counselors
(818)947-2577 xt. 4172

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

Wednesday, May 17
Undecided Majors Workshop
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 18
CSULA Representative
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CSUN Representative
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop
5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 22
How to Transfer Workshop
2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23
Resume Writing Workshop
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24
Resume Writing Workshop
1 p.m.

All Think Transfer events are held in the Career/ Tranfer Center in the Administration Building, room 126 unless otherwise indicated.

Campus Must Choose Between Library and Student Services Bldg.

'Propositions'

continued from page 1

mental science instructor and Master Plan Committee member, raises the question, "What's the public going to say when we ask for more money and we don't have more to show for the first two [propositions]?"

Until Proposition AAA has a chance to reach the ballot, the Student Services Building and Library are in competition for a secure future. "We have to make a choice between a Student Services Building and a new library," said Gauthier. While admitting there are pros and cons to each building, Gauthier said "It comes down to one basic fact: we cannot get funding for a Student Services building from the state, but the library, at some point, can get state funding."

Although a library is more likely to get state funding down the road, Valley librarian and Master Plan Committee member Dana Lubow says that is no reason to put off building it as planned. "When we first started prioritizing, the library was the crown jewel."

Although Valley's renovation project, "ReVitilizing Valley," is not as far along as planned, the campus has seen more results than any of the other eight campuses in the district. The first Prop. A/AA-funded building in the district is Valley's Maintenance and Operations Building, which celebrated its ribbon cutting last month.

With many projects being put on hold, Valley is salvaging as many buildings as possible and thoroughly renovating them.

"The president thought that it's important that all buildings be touched," said Gauthier. "Buildings that could be refurbish should be."

The Foreign Language building was the first of the campus' buildings to get the $800,000 makeover, which is actually $200,000 under budget with the average price of refurbishing a classroom building being $1 million.

Next in line for renovations is the Behavioral Science Building this summer, with the North and South Gyms following in the fall, and the Art, Theater and Music Buildings as well as the Business/ Journalism building getting the treatment in summer 2007. In the mean time, the Campus Center and Art Building courtyards are being upgraded. The Campus Center courtyard is receiving a fabric shade structure, which will block the sun, and the Art Building's courtyard is getting a new fountain. The campus is also getting a new electronic marquee on the corner of Oxnard Street and Fulton Avenue. The biggest project Valley is currently working on is the deconstruction of many of the campus' bungalows that have been on campus since it opened in 1949. Once the bungalows are torn down, ground will be broken for the new science building.

The Master Plan Committee meets Thursdays at 3 p.m. in the President's Conference Room in the Administration Building, and are open to all.

Registration Days Set to Help Students

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College will offer One-Stop Registration Days to all returning and continuing students. The two-day event will be held on May 23 and 24 to allow students to enroll in classes, meet with counselors, apply for financial aid, pay for classes and parking all at the same place.

"We received high student satisfaction comments and reviews at last semester's One Stop," said Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye. "That is why we have expanded to a two-day event this semester."

Representatives from the business, counseling, admissions and records and financial aid offices will set up on the first floor of Campus Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days.

"All on-staff counselors that are scheduled to work will be there," said Associate Dean of Admissions and Records Florentino Manzano. "I think students will also enjoy the human factor, it's people helping people and it shows commitment."

Students can register for summer and fall classes and also speak to representatives from 25 departments, including art, English and journalism.

"Fifty-six percent of Valley students are undecided [majors] and this is our way to do something about it," said Delahoussaye. "Students can ask these people about the departments they're interested in and get some good information."

Students will have first dibs on their classes as well as requesting that additional classes be added. To appeal to the students of the electronic age, a drawing will be held to win an iPod nano, and there will also be a chance for students to win a free parking pass for the fall semester upon completion of an event evaluation sheet.

"We're always looking for ways to improve and if we want students to see that we are the campus that cares," said Delahoussaye.

An RSVP is required, and students can do so by logging onto www.lavc.edu and clicking on "One-Stop Registration Days." For more information contact the Student Services Office at (818) 947-2688.

'Greenwald'

continued from page 1

well-researched truth on what is going on in the world. "These films are ultimately irrelevant if people like yourselves don't get copies of them and show them in your homes, churches and schools," said Greenwald. "Each of you truly is the Universal Studios, is the Warner Brothers of these movies." They're meant to spark debate among those who agree, disagree and for those who don't care.

Greenwald's next documentary, "Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers" comes out in mid-September and Greenwald says it is "Politically, the most explosive film, but only with your help."

"It is very interesting to hear what someone so creative put together," said audience member Rita Lubin.

Other audience members, such as Arthur Saltz, a retired physician, felt that Greenwald's place was at a college campus, addressing the future leaders of America. "He's preaching to the choir here, I agree with everything he has to say," said Saltz. "the average age of this audience is about 70."

Audience member Lois Hoffing was fascinated by the speech but shocked at the non-existent turnout of young people throughout the series.

The VCJCC's Provocative Speakers Series has brought four prominent and controversial speakers to the Valley during each of its three years, but the series that has welcomed such figures as John Dean, Laura Flanders, and most recently, this year, Scott Ritter, Robert Scheer and Gore Vidal, will be discontinued.

'Transfer'

continued from page 1

that give students an opportunity to do something extra for admission to UCLA and other UCs. The TAP student acceptance rate to UCLA is 85 percent and more than 90 percent to other UCs. According to Brossman there has been an increase in the amount of students joining TAP because of growing admission competition.

Competition for admission to UCLA for transfer students has increased in recent years; therefore strong academic preparation and performance are major factors because it is the most applied to of the UCs. The average GPA for transfer students accepted to UCLA was a 3.50, with all major preparatory classes completed, according to the UCLA Transfer Admission Guide for 2006-2007.

Other Ucs, like UCSB, are not as strict and require only partial completion of major preparation coursework in its highly selective engineering, computer science and biology majors.

Private institutions are all individualistic with what they require. USC is the most applied to private school by Valley College students. It does not hold to a minimum GPA, but students admitted in 2005 had an average GPA of 3.53. "The farther south you go from a 3.0, the less competitive you become," said Bruce Young Grier, associate director of the office of transfer admissions at USC. According to Grier, extracurricular activities and application essay questions are not a deciding factor for transfer applicants. It is all based on college performance and since the school is up 400 transfer applicants this semester, it is getting more competitive. Successful transfer applicants have generally completed a year of rigorous academic courses, including two semesters of English writing and intermediate algebra in college.

CSU campuses require fewer major preparation classes and have a minimum GPA requirement of 2.0. If you have completed the general education requirements and 60 transferable semester units you will probably be admitted to one of the CSU campuses, however, not necessarily to the CSU of your choice.

No matter where you plan to transfer to, careful planning is key in transferring to a four-year institution, according to many Valley and university officials. Creating a transfer plan that incorporates admission and lower division GE, major preparation and elective requirements is essential.

More information about transfer, upcoming workshops, university representative visits and other questions about specific universities can all be found at the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 or by calling (818) 947-2646.

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WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

OPINION

AN OPINION

American Soldiers' Road to Perdition

■ A war's lost cause is taking its toll on the troops.

BY SEDA TERZYAN
STAFF WRITER

When soldiers are told to march, they march. They're told to shoot, they shoot. They're told to kill, they kill.

Obedience is a powerful word that every soldier knows, understands and respects, but it is surrounded by the uncertainties of when it is right to disobey. All soldiers are taught in basic training that it is their responsibility to disobey an illegal or immoral duty.

Now, more than 8,000 soldiers of the American all-volunteer military have deserted their duty since the Iraq war began, one way or another, with the knowledge that they would face up to five years in prison or the death penalty.

"Behind these bars I sit a free man because I listened to a higher power, the voice of my conscience," said Camilo Mejia on his Web site. Mejia refused to return to Iraq and served a year in prison. He could no longer endure killing for nothing. Instead, he became a conscientious objector to war.

American troops invaded Iraq March 19, 2003 to supposedly protect America from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Three years have passed and the lies are still bubbling to the surface. President George W. Bush recently announced that troops were making progress but forecasted many rough battles to come. "We will not let your loved ones' dying be in vain. We will finish what we started in Iraq. We will complete the mission."

But what is the mission?

It is easy to turn a blind eye to the horrors and uncertainties leading those in the service to risk everything to escape and it is easy to ignore the government's blatant disregard for truth. Even the media seem to agree that ignorance is bliss because none of the major information-providing networks informed Americans that in 2005, the suicide rate in Iraq hit an all-time high when 22 soldiers killed themselves, accounting for one in five of Army non-combat deaths. Army Spec. Jeffrey Henthorn, 25, committed suicide last year while on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

His superiors "knew he was unstable and had threatened suicide at least twice, according to Army investigative reports and interviews," reports the Hartford Courant. Henthorn had told his family that he was tormented by memories of shoving a boy off a moving tank and watching the boy's limp body slip under the wheels.

Henthorn is one of many who did not receive adequate attention or therapy. Fewer than one in 300 service members actually see a mental health professional before shipping out, according to recent studies. The military is violating its own policies. According to studies conducted by the Hartford Courant, men showing signs of severe mental dysfunction are being slapped with a few anti-depressants and anxiety pills and getting shipped back to war, with little or no medical monitoring.

The Courant's investigation found that at least 11 service members who committed suicide in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 were kept on duty despite showing signs of significant psychological distress.

In at least seven cases, superiors were aware of the problems according to military investigative records and family interviews.

ILLUSTRATION BY JESUS ESQUIVEL / VALLEY STAR

In addition, there has also been a dramatic increase in the number of soldiers developing post-traumatic stress disorder while in Iraq, numbers not seen since Vietnam, due to the escalated amount of ground battle being fought.

However you want to look at it, it needs to end. Lives are destroyed each day, only more destruction will persist.

Soldiers are coming home from Iraq feeling lost. Readjustment is an illusion that grows more distant with time. Their injuries are lifelong battles; the anxiety, the sleepless nights haunted by nightmares of friends lost, people killed and the degenerated value of life.

We must listen and learn from the stories of these veterans and deserters turned anti-war supporters and fix the insurmountable flaws of our government.

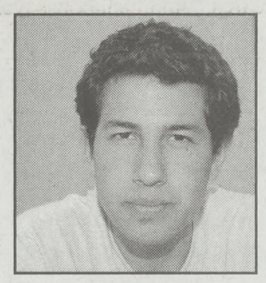
They know, they've been there. Their stories are the truth; it's time to accept it and take action to bring the rest home.

Supporting our troops means you can no longer support this war.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY MARIA LOW

What would you rather have on campus, a new library or student services building?

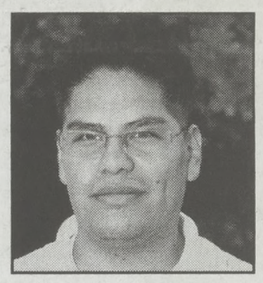


"Student services would be great. Somewhere students can go and get information without an appointment."

-Bernie Jimenez
Child Development

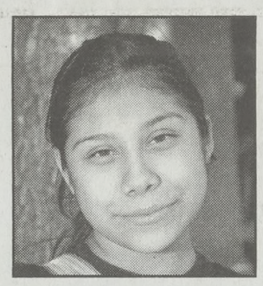
"I would say library. I spend a lot of time in the library. I was thinking how many years has it been [since it was built] and when are they going to make a new one – we spend hours in there."

-Tsaghik Isaghulyan
Business



"A new library because it could be benefical to facilitate more student studies on campus. Maybe more group study rooms and resources available on site."

-David Vidana
Business



"A student services building. It's better to have one building [for all the services], it's less confusing and more convenient for students."

-Melanie Delgado
Sociology

FIRST PERSON - FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Give Future Generations a Chance

BY JOHN MADDOX
HISTORY INSTRUCTOR

My mother is 90 years old and it has been only in the last year that she revealed to me that at one time she was an illegal alien.

This is her story.

My grandparents moved from Ireland to Canada before my mother was born.

They took Canadian citizenship easily because at that time Ireland was a part of Great Britain and Canada was a dominion within the British Empire.

During a return visit to Ireland, my mother was born.

On the return voyage to Canada they tried to book passage on the Titanic, but it was sold out.

On the following ship, they sailed through the debris of the Titanic. They subsequently returned to Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada where my mother lived until the age of 8.

Due to the extreme cold my grandparents moved to Los Angeles because of the mild climate.

My grandparents had entered the U.S. on the British quota, because Belfast, in Northern Ireland was, and still today is, a part of Great Britain.

The British quota was very large and often unfilled, while the Irish quota had a waiting list for years. My grandparents were legal residents, but not citizens. Because my mother was underage she was not included in the registration (a legal error).

At the age of 20 my mother went to Winnipeg for a vacation to visit relatives. No passport was needed to visit Canada, so no legal searches of her identity relevant to acquiring a passport were conducted.

Upon attempting to return to the country, she discovered that she had unknowingly been an illegal for all those years.

Upon inquiries to her parents (my grandparents) it was determined that she was a college student; her father had a good job, and she was in no danger of becoming a financial burden to the state, therefore she was given legal status, and just before I was born, she became a citizen.

Incidentally, her mother-in-law (my grandmother), who was from Tennessee, and from a multi-generational, native-born American family was very anxious that I, her grandson, would be born to an American mother, who was a citizen.

Things have changed a great deal with immigration laws since then.

Since the 1960s there have been no quotas, and immigration has opened to the entire world.

But if the present House of Representatives bill regarding immigration were law at that time, my mother probably would have had great difficulty in returning to this country, continuing with her college education, meeting the man who became my father and getting on with her life.

And furthermore, it's very questionable that I would be here, teaching and writing this article.

Fighting for the American Dream

BY KAREN CHRISTENSEN
STUDENT

Exiting the MacArthur Park station, I stepped into the invisible footprints of thousands of hurried young travelers like Katie Villalta who donned a white T-shirt and waved United States and El Salvador flags as she fought her way to the top. Behind a mass of winding, white cotton I realized we 400,000 protestors looked very much the same: united in justice for all.

Cheering on the swarm of marchers to take Wilshire Boulevard, the Villalta family honors the national "Day Without Immigrants" strike in peaceful protest. In a few short months the family will leave Los Angeles for the Midwest. The move marks their restless struggle to make a home and to live the American Dream.

"I would ask Bush if he could help us to change everything," said Villalta, 11. "We want to live, work and be happy just like everyone else. We're not criminals."

While current immigration laws have affected Villalta's sense of residence and security, it has not shaken her spirit. Like so many young girls she is quick to share, "I'm a dancer, a cheerleader and a soccer player." Not all immigrants can manage Villalta's optimism, though.

A 25-year-old Mexican MacArthur Park resident can speak only of injustice. "We want liberty, we want to be free. We are workers, we are human," said the resident, now working illegally as a waiter. Pointing to the handwriting on his shirt, "We were, we are, and we will always be … here."

The May 1 demonstrations followed three weeks of protests including a massive March 25 rally that drew half a million supporters to downtown Los Angeles. The string of marches is the result of the immigration bill H-4437 presented to the U.S. House of Representatives in an attempt to make illegal immigration a felony. According to the 2003 Census Bureau Foreign-Born report, 35 million immigrants live in the United States representing 11.7 percent of the national population.

The immigrants' marches represent their denied requests for equal opportunity.

Villalta and the MacArthur Park resident are only two of the estimated 400,000 immigrants, legal and illegal, who marched along Wilshire Boulevard Monday chanting "Ahora marchamos, manana votamos," (Today We March, Tomorrow We Vote).

My friend Jaime, a 24-year-old Mexican husband, father and Van Nuys busboy, boycotted work to attend the rally alone, leaving his wife and child at home. "I walked for five days with only three days worth of food to come here," said Jaime. "I almost died but I had to do it for my family." When asked whether he wanted to stay in the U.S. Jaime said, "No, I face discrimination every day, but there's no work in Mexico."

While the majority of marchers were themselves immigrants, many were students and activists there to support the cause. "You want my picture because I'm an old, white liberal," said one protestor, "and that's OK, we need more women like me."

Making our way back down the MacArthur Park Station staircase, the high afternoon sun scorched my neck as hunger pains tore at my belly and I recognized I would never fully know the plight and the sacrifice of these immigrants.

Every day, men, women and children are forced to leave their loved ones, risk their lives and try to secure the basic human dignities of work, food, shelter and safety that we American-born blindly take for granted. Riding the Metro back to Studio City I became painfully aware of my unearned good fortune and the responsibility I had to reach out.

LETTERS

THE VALLEY STAR tries to print as many letters from its readers as possible. Letters should not exceed 300 words and must include the author's full name, major or connection to Valley College, and contact information.

Taking Responsibility

Your article, "ASU Members Fall From Grace," [April 26] provided an eye-opening and startling exposé on the outrageous and completely unacceptable online and offline behavior of some of the corrupt and truly incompetent ASU commissioners, who are in gross violation of the terms of their ASU sworn duties and LAVC rules governing ASU office holders.

After my friends and I finally stopped laughing at how stupid and naïve these self-serving ASU "elected" officials have demonstrated themselves to be, the thought occurred to us, that today, in the year 2006, you have to be living in a fantasyland to think entering student politics at the college level gives you a free pass to do whatever you want, whenever you want, your actions and non-actions accountable to no one.

After your article, these ASU "commissioners" should have come to the conclusion that their self-serving efforts to get "elected" into ASU offices causes the spotlight to focus on who they actually are, their background, agenda, verification of their résumé, and a public examination of their actions and behavior while in ASU office, supposedly representing the student body to whom they serve and are held accountable to, in accordance with LAVC regulations.

The individuals named and highlighted in your piece, Vardan Pzdikyan and Nvard "Rose" Oganesyan, need to immediately publicly address the allegations of ineptitude, incompetence, dereliction of official ASU duties and the irrefutable evidence of online amateur-hour personal and "political" backstabbing.

If they insist on not responding to such serious charges, that example of arrogance and hubris only serves to tacitly confirm the veracity of their crimes, and prove the newspaper's assertions as valid and undeniable evidence of the sad and embarrassing realities fostered by the current ASU "officials."

P. Martinez
Psychology Major

Paving the Way to Good Health

Want a new lease on life? Try the Aerobic Super Circuit class at Valley College's Fitness Center. I enrolled in my first Aerobic Super Circuit class six years ago, primarily to satisfy my one-unit physical education requirement for graduation. However, I enthusiastically became a "regular" because of the many healthful benefits this class offered me.

If you are interested in improving your general health and well being, including maintaining good blood pressure levels, better agility, effective weight control, managing stress, improving muscular strength/flexibility and cardio-respiratory endurance, the Aerobic Super Circuit class is for you. It's value cannot be overstated; it is so intrinsic to overall good health.

The Aerobic Super Circuit class has over 100 pieces of exercise equipment that include cardio-vascular machines, weight machines, stationary bikes and exercise mats for the use of students enrolled in the class. One of the added enjoyments of participating in the Aerobic Super Circuit class are the many congenial friends you'll meet there with the same enthusiastic goal of maintaining good, sound health.

Lawrence Stone
Journalism Major

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, May 17

The Mysterious Bog People
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, ends Sept. 10, $2 to $9 (213) 763-DIN0; www.nhm.org/bogpeople and www.bogpeople.org

Propulsion After Petroleum
The history of non-gasoline cars at the Peterson Automotive Museum 6060 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, $10, $5 Seniors and Students 12:00 p.m. (323) 930-CARS

Thursday, May 18

Performance Workshop Concert Valley College Recital Hall 11:20 a.m.

Sean Carnage presents T-shirt and Apparel Show Scoops Ice Cream Shoppe (across melrose from Il corral) 7:30 p.m. outrageous clothing by young artists & underground musicians. All apparel $10 / free cocktails / 10 p.m. Show & dance party at Il Corral 662 N. Heliotrope Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90004

A Conversation With Paul Haggis at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater 8949 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills $5 / $3 Students / 7:30 p.m. (310) 247-3000 x111

Friday, May 19

Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra Robert Mayeur, Director Valley College Music Recital Hall

"Airplane!"
A special 25th 1/2 anniversary cast and crew reunion at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 849 Wilsire Blvd., Beverly Hills 8 p.m. / $5 (310) 247-3600

Saturday, May 20

17th Annual Toddler Conference
For parents and professionals sponsored by Resources for Infant Educarers and The Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA 1550 Murray Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90026 (323)663-5330 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. www.rie.org

Sunday, May 21

Festival Du Film Francais
French Film Festival Valley College Foreign Lanuge 102 $3 / 10:30 a.m. "Love Me If You Dare,""Four Hundred Blows,""Kirikou and the Sorceress,""Rachida,""Money, Money, Money"

Monday, May 22

Hell Ya! Night
Hockey, Asleep in the Sea, Controlling the Famous, Giant Bear at The Echo 1822 Sunset Blvd., Echo Park 8 p.m. / 21+ Free / Under 21 $5 (213) 413-8200

VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Watkins Shares Bill With Mozart

■ Valley Symphony Orchestra's 2006 composition competition winner debuts his piece.

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was upstaged by Mark Adam Watkins during the Valley Symphony Orchestra's last performance of the semester, "The Year of Mozart." The 55-piece orchestra delivered delicious presentations of pieces mostly by Mozart, but it was Watkins' composition "Bedtime Stories with Grandpa Clark" that sent a noticeable charge through the crowd.

Watkins, a professional composer, is the winner of the VSO's 2006 composition competition. The May 6 performance at the Mainstage Theater marked the first live performance of his award-winning suite.

The piece was given life by an ever-changing energy; melodies evocative of peaceful moments of nostalgia gave way to musical renderings of mischief and youthful adventure. A soft, somber theme played without accompaniment by the brass section book-ended the composition. The audience expressed its appreciation by offering a resounding round of applause for a resounding performance of a daring composition.

The program also included a performance of Mozart's "Symphony No. 31 in D Major," also known as his "Paris Symphony," the highlight of which was the andantino portion, played with an unwavering command of tone and tempo. Throughout the section woodwinds and strings seemed almost in competition with one another but at the same time in complete harmony, filling intervals with tension, tempered only by a prevailing tenor of peace and slight melancholy.

Conductor Robert Chauls cajoled from the orchestra a steadfastly steady presentation of the three-part symphony.

Chauls took time to explain a bit of the history behind each of the program's five pieces. The night's closing composition, Chauls explained, was one by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky who was an ardent admirer of Mozart. The selection "Suite No. 4 in G" or "Mozartina" was a tribute to Mozart in which Tchaikovsky transformed one of his idol's piano pieces into an orchestral composition.

Concertmaster and lead violinist, Sharon Cooper played up to her title with her masterful navigation of the thematically rich and complex core of the fourth and concluding part of the suite. Her sharp bow-strokes cut deep into the heart of the composition and punctuated an entertaining program.

DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

FISTS OF FURY – After two knockdowns, Nikki Mazerant defeated Ian O'Neil last Wednesday in an inflatable boxing ring in Monarch Square set up as part of the Associated Student Union-sponsored Spring Games.

ASU Spring Games Bring Fun to Valley

■ Athletics promoted through fun food-filled event.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Monarch Square was a vibrant scene this past Wednesday as Valley College students bounced around in a colorful jumper fashioned after a boxing ring and engaged in a showdown with oversized red gloves.

The ring was in Monarch Square as part of the Associated Student Union-sponsored Spring Games, an annual event to raise awareness for Valley's athletic program and promote involvement in athletic activities.

ASU commissioner of athletics Alma Palacios organized the event and public relations commissioner Anastasia Washington was on hand to help students enjoy themselves throughout the day.

"It was fun seeing the people play in the huge boxing ring," said Washington. "We had many clubs in there, mainly M.E.Ch.A. and the Feminist Club duking [it] out. It was fun and hilarious. Many people wanted to stay in [the ring] forever."

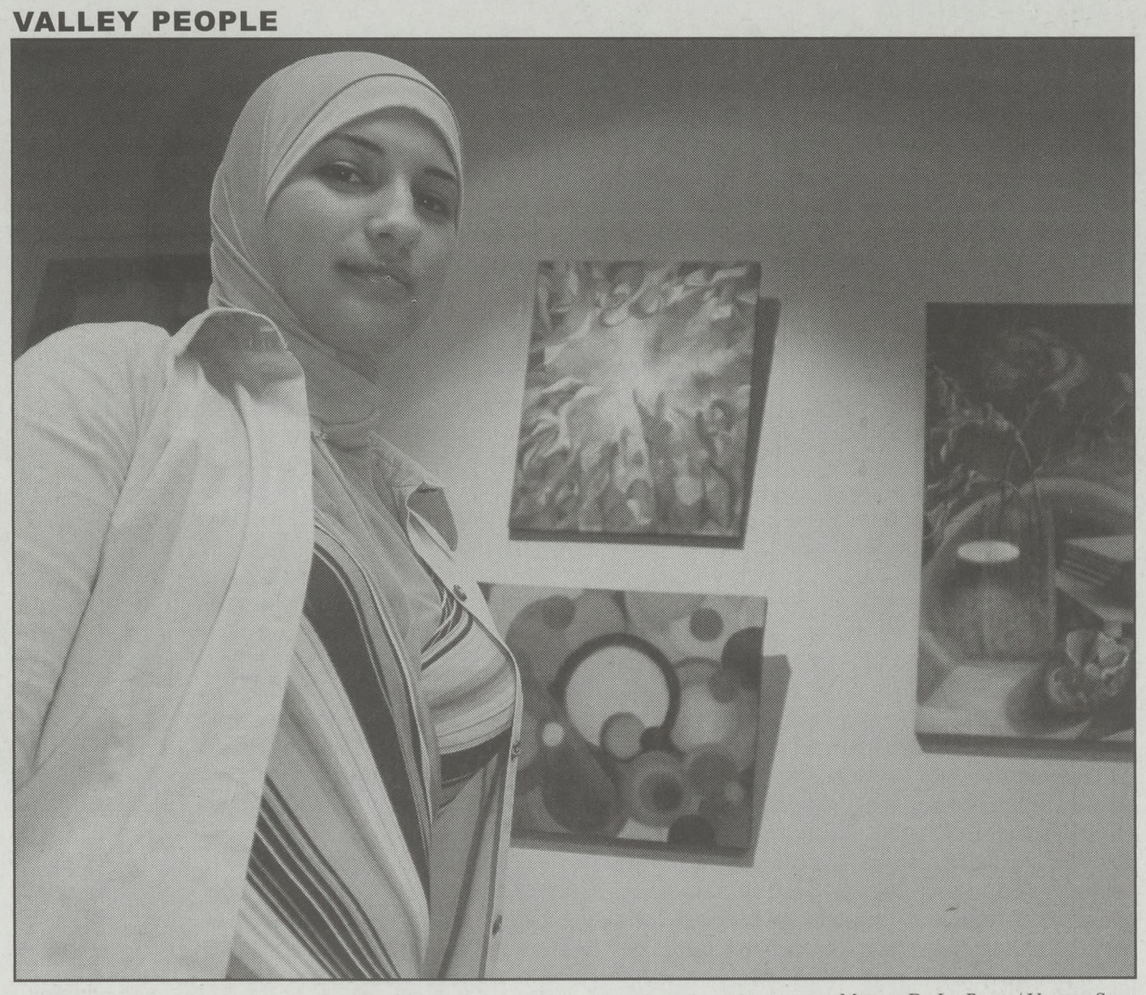
The event, which began at 9 a.m. and ended at 2 p.m., featured soccer and plenty of playful student bouts inside the boxing ring, including ASU members who stopped by to strap on the gloves and get some unexpected exercise.

"I didn't realize how tiring this would be," said Melik Melikyan, the ASU commissioner of student and social services. "I was supposed to go and work out after this but now I'm done."

Taking place on the last club day of the spring semester, the spring games shared Monarch Square with many clubs, including the VCP, LAVC Cheerleaders, M.E.Ch.A. and the feminist club, with the Grace on Campus club offering a 25-cent menu, including hot dogs, nachos and cookies.

"I'm very happy with the results," said Palacios. "I think that a lot of people enjoyed the boxing ring, the food and most importantly they all had fun. I believe that this is the first time so many students got involved in the spring games."

VALLEY PEOPLE



MORRIS DE LA ROCA / VALLEY STAR

ARTIST AT HEART – Valley Art student Dalah Faytrouni stands infront of a few of her 42 art pieces on display through July at the Encino Terrace Center at 15821 Ventura Blvd. her work will also be ondisplay at the StuArt Gallery.

Student Balances Art and Family

BY MARC HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

While talking to Dalah Faytrouni about her life and art, one can't help but notice her smile, as bright as her pastel-colored hijab, the traditional Muslim head-cover she wears; she radiates a love of life and art.

Art has been a part of her life since childhood, but she realized a greater creative potential in herself after taking a drawing class at Valley College in the summer of 2001 and became more serious about painting. She has since had her work shown in numerous galleries and showcases and has received various awards. Her most recent showcase is in the lobby of the Encino Terrace Center where 42 of her pieces are on display.

Considering her artistic accomplishments, one might find it surprising that art isn't her main priority. Her focus in life is on being a good wife and mother. She's been married for 12 years, has two sons, Abdul, 11, and Omar, 7, and works as an apartment manager.

"Art is very important to me, but it is only second in my life. The most important thing for me is to take care of my family," Faytrouni said.

On a particularly busy day, she rises at 6 a.m. and gets her sons ready for school. She takes them to school and comes back home where she works, handling the tenants of her building. She juggles the building's managerial matters with her domestic duties and in spare moments she touches up artworks in progress. After picking up the kids from school she has a night class, after which she returns home to do homework and put the children to bed. After all that, she still has to paint, which she does mostly at night as her family sleeps.

Her two boys have also shown a proclivity for art and have already won awards for charcoal and crayon drawings they have done at school. Indeed a youthful inclination toward art is something that Faytrouni has in common with Omar and Abdul, but her children's upbringing is in sharp contrast with her own.

She was born in Al Mina Tripoli, Lebanon in 1975, during a civil war. She is the second of seven children. In her early years it was difficult to experience art first hand; people in the war-torn region where she lived were more concerned with survival than paintings and drawings. She began experimenting with charcoal and water colors while in high school and first experienced being surrounded by art at the age of 15 when she attended an art show for the first time; she saw her passion for art rise to a new level.

Just after finishing high school in the early 90s, she met the man who would become her husband. He was living in the United States and visiting Lebanon, his native country. By the end of the year she moved to the United States and they married.

It's hard for her family in Lebanon to believe that she has time to paint, with all of her other responsibilities. But she feels that creative exercise is an essential activity.

"Art helps me to relieve stress," she said. "It's a way of showing what's inside you. You have a blank canvas or a sheet of paper and you fill it with your emotions."

Her style is dynamic. Her subject matter ranges from impressionistic depictions of landscapes and still-lives to portrayals of the unrest in her native country. She creates a sense of harmony in her abstract pieces as various patterns and vibrant colors come together to agree on a particular mood and tone.

One of her biggest fans is Valley art instructor Carol Bishop with whom she has taken several classes during the three years they've know each other.

"Dalah is a born artist," Bishop said. "She has a great personal visual style that has evolved into the work of a professional."

While she has sold a number of her pieces and takes pleasure when others enjoy her work, she takes pride in the fact that she has learned to create primarily for herself. She credits Bishop for helping her achieve this self-centered creative approach.

"Bishop said to us, 'what do you want to do? Please other people or please yourself?'" Faytrouni remembers. "When you really express yourself the way you want to, sometimes you feel like you own the world."

Faytrouni's work will be showing at the Encino Terrace Center, at 15821 Ventura Blvd., through July and at the StuArt Gallery at 17946 Ventura Blvd. Her and her children's work can also be seen at her website at www.dalahfineart.com.

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SPORTS

New Monarch Stadium is a Personal Best for Valley

■ Valley's new state-of-the-art athletic field is ready to compete with the best of them.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
OPINION EDITOR

On June 7, the graduating class of 2006 will be the first to hold their diplomas firmly in hand and throw their caps up in air from the field of Valley College's newly revitalized Monarch Stadium.

"This renovation is terrific not only for our students but also for the community, as well as [being] a campus asset," said Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to Valley President Tyree Wieder.

The completion of the first phase of the Proposition A/AA bond project will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 20, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has been invited to be the keynote speaker.

A variety of activities are being planned that will highlight this new state-of-the-art facility, a multi-purpose field that includes a new synthetic football and soccer surface with sprint turf and the only 10-lane Mondo track in the state of California.

Valley Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero is proud of the momentous achievement of securing the only Mondo track in the state. "Mondo is the surface they use in the Olympics, it's the best track there is — it's real fast," said Ferrero.

Ferrero has gone out to the athletic field at least 20 times a day since the project began with the first total demolition of the existing field that had been there for more than 45 years.

"It was a tough project because of the age of the structure," said Ferrero who's involved in the day-to-day things that happen during construction. "It's been a long process, but it will be a phenomenal facility when it's finished out there at the track and field."

"It's huge for our athletic program because we can now go out there with football, soccer, track and field and be able to compete with anybody around, facility wise, as far as recruiting is concerned," said Ferrero.

Ferrero adds that recruiting was very difficult, and that the school is not going to recruit many track athletes when you have the only dirt track left around.

"It's a big impact to recruiting and it really gives us an edge in competitions," said women's track and field coach Yannick Allain. "It puts Valley back on the map not just locally but internationally — it's world class."

The next phase is scheduled to begin in October with building plans that include the visitors' field house.

The Monarch Stadium ribbon cutting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m., and will begin with an official kick-off by a member of Valley's football team.

MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

LEAGUE OF ITS OWN - Newly renovated Monarch Stadium is ready for commencement on June 7. The ribbon cutting for the only stadium in California with a 10-lane Mondo track will be held on June 20 at 10:30 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD

Monarch Track & Field Star Fails to Qualify for State, Team Treks Farther Behind

■ The track and field team has a disappointing showing at the finals to end their season.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

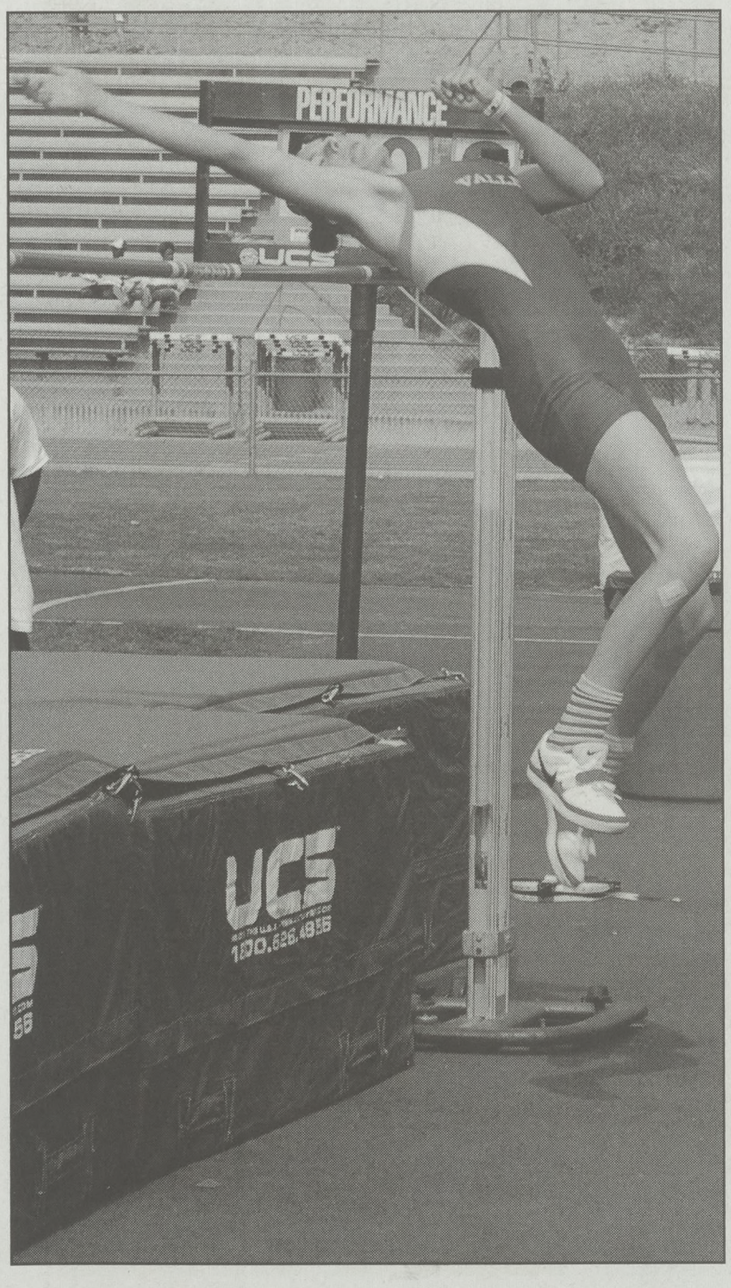
Valley College track and field star Antoinette Burton had a disappointing meet this past weekend at the Southern California Finals at Mt. Sac., where she failed to qualify for the State Finals, ending the season in an upset.

"I was disappointed in myself," said Burton, who was the only female from Valley to make it to the SoCal Finals. "I guess I didn't have the right preparation for it. It was just a really bad meet overall."

Burton, who is ranked in the top four in the state in high jump, failed to qualify with her 12th place finish and only jumped 4'8" when her personal record is 5'4."

In the Southern California Prelims held May 6 she tied for first place with a jump of 5'2" and was the only female qualifier in the Southern California Championship in the high jump.

"The season went well but I didn't improve from last year in high jump, which is my main event," said Burton, who also competes in seven other events, although she competed in only the high-jump event at this past weekend's Finals.



DANIEL KANE / VALLEY STAR

UP AND OVER - Antoinette Burton barely clears the bar in an upset, where she didn't qualify for State Finals, and jumped 8" under her personal record.

> "I guess I didn't have the right preparation for it. It was just a really bad meet overall."
>
> *- Antoinette Burton*

The men's team had two jumpers qualify for the SoCal finals but both failed to move on to state. Long jumper Clarence Walton, who is ranked seventh in the state, fouled out, while triple jumper Dartanian Hightower, who jumped a personal best in the Southern California Preliminaries with a jump of 44'0.5" to qualify for the finals, finished 11th with a jump of 42'5," which didn't qualify for state but earned him the college's honor of athlete of the week.

"We could have done much better," said head coach Francois Wolman. "We had a lot of people compete in the Southern California Prelims though."

The track and field athletes are finished competing for the 2006 season, but plan to train in the off-season and come back strong with a big team next year.

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CALL FOR ENTRIES

Logo Identity Design Competition

hosted by the Greater Valley Glen Council
Deadline for submission is June 9, 2006

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or
www.GVGC.us

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Attention high school and college level students who live, study or work in Greater Valley Glen!

You are invited to participate in our logo design competition, designing its first ever logo identity.

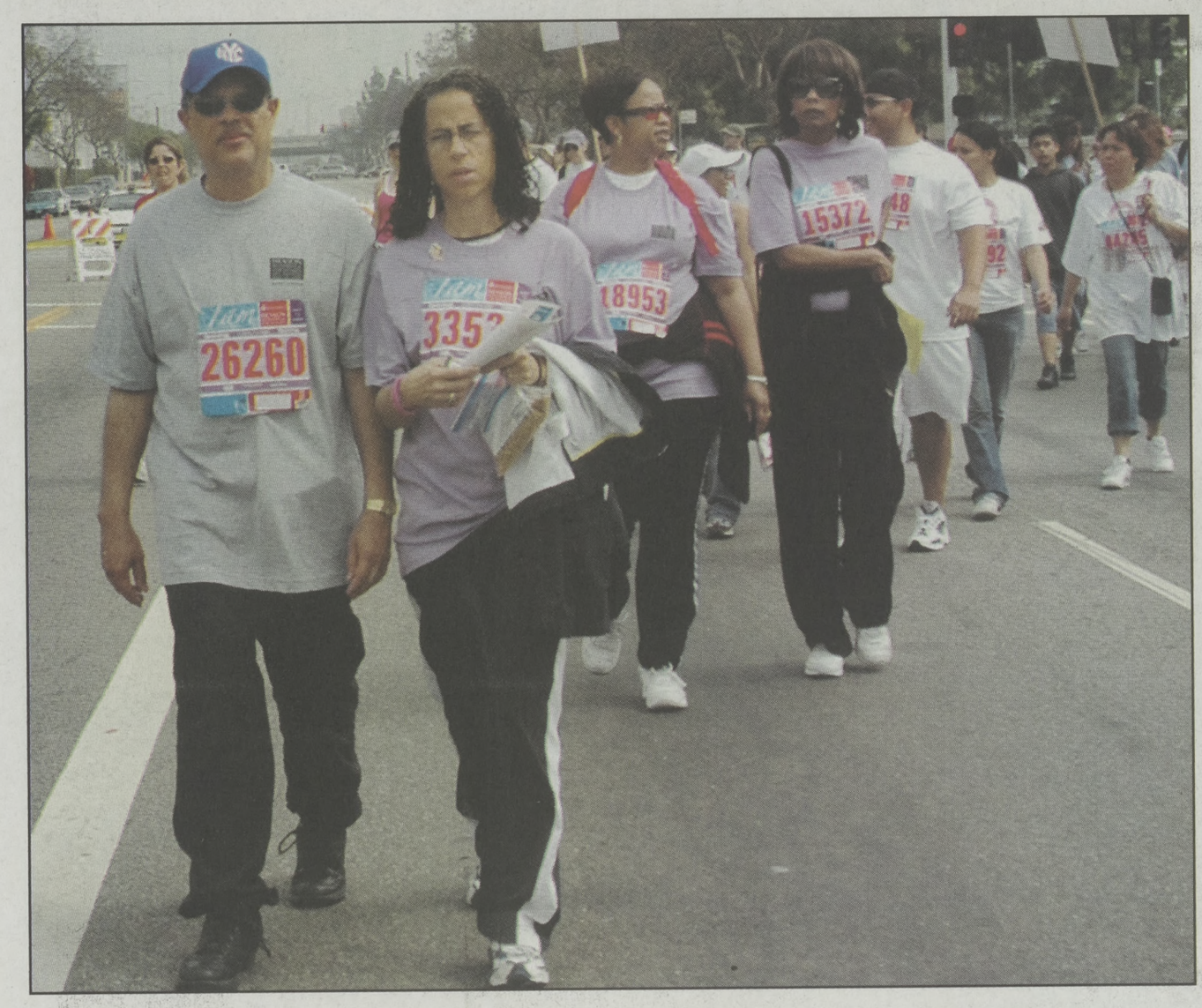
Theme: The council is looking for an inclusive logo design that depicts the community of Greater Valley Glen, focusing on its civic diversity.

The Greater Valley Glen Council is elected by the stakeholders in the Greater Valley Glen area to serve as a neighborhood advisory board to the Los Angeles City government. We are volunteer homeowners, renters, business people and representatives from schools, churches and non-profit groups. Our goals include, but are not limited to, improving public safety and protecting the quality of life in our neighborhood.

The office of Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Council District 2 will award the winner with a Certificate of Achievement.

Guidelines are available on the web at:
www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org or www.GVGC.us
If you need further information, please contact Linda Wehrli, Arts and Education Committee Chair at 818/766-0614 or pastimes@earthlink.net.

Gallery



Maria Low / Valley Star

TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER - Yasmin Delahoussaye walks step by step for a cure for breast cancer.

Maria Low / Valley Star

FULL OF WISDOM AND STRENGTH- Yasmin Delahoussaye asked us to join her in celebrating life in this Revlon walk to fight women's cancers.

Walking for a Cure

Photos, Text and Layout
By Maria Low

More than 50,000 people turned out in support for Revlon's 13th Annual Run/Walk for Women this past Saturday in Downtown Los Angeles. Among the crowd were 47 members of Yasmin's Champions, the team of friends, family members and Valley College faculty, staff and students supporting one-year cancer survivor Yasmin Delahoussaye, Valley's vice president of Student Services.

Maria Low / Valley Star

A RAINBOW OF PEOPLE UNITE FOR A COMMON FIGHT - On Saturday May 13 young and old came to the Los Angeles Coliseum for The Revlon Run/Walk for Women's cancers to help find a cure.

Maria Low / Valley Star

A BEACON OF HOPE - Sherri A. Rodriguez leads the way for Yasmin's Champions on the Streets of Los Angeles.

Maria Low / Valley Star

A MOMENT OF GLORY- Men, women and children walk side by side to the finish line sharing the hope and support for life at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Exposition Park.